

06.12.2004

(96)

What is claimed is:

1. An actuator for a latch, comprising:
first and second articulated levers, wherein said first lever includes at least one
5 cam follower and said second lever includes at least one stop member which pivots
between first and second positions as each said lever travels between first and second
positions;
a cam having at least one cam driving member and at least one cam stop
member;
10 a power actuator operatively engaging said cam effecting driving movement of
said cam;
said at least one cam driving member having a path of travel which is in
engaging alignment with said at least one cam follower for a portion of said travel and
is in disengaging alignment with said at least one cam follower for another portion of
15 said travel;
wherein said at least one cam stop member abuts said at least one stop member
of the second lever when said at least one cam driving member is in said non-aligned
position and wherein said levers may be activated without driving said cam.
- 20 2. An actuator according to claim 1, wherein driving said cam by energizing said
actuator effects the pivoting of said first and second levers between said first and
second positions or vice versa.
3. An actuator according to claim 2, wherein said first and second levers are
25 disposed substantially orthogonal to one another.
4. An actuator according to claim 3, wherein said first and second levers are
articulated via a ball and fork linkage.
- 30 5. An actuator according to claim 3, wherein said at least one lever stop member
comprises a shaft extending from said second lever in a direction substantially parallel

to said first lever and wherein said shaft has an arm which pivots between said first and second positions.

6. An actuator according to claim 5, wherein said first lever is one of a latch
5 inside or outside lock lever and said second lever is the other of the latch inside outside lock lever.

7. An actuator according to claim 3, wherein said cam is rotatably mounted to a
support and includes a toothed circumference in meshing engagement with a gear
10 associated with said power actuator.

8. An actuator according to claim 2, wherein said first and second levers are substantially co-planar.

9. An actuator according to claim 8, wherein said first and second levers are
15 articulated via a projection on one of said levers engaging a slot on the other of said levers.

10. An actuator according to claim 9, wherein said cam is rotatably mounted to a
20 support structure and said first and second levers are each pivotably mounted to a supporting structure.

11. An actuator according to claim 10, wherein said cam has at least two cam stop
members and wherein said at least one lever stop member comprises two tabs located
25 on opposing ends of said second lever, each said tab engaging one of the cam stop members to thereby limit the pivot angular of said first and second levers.